KINDAICHI SHOUNEN NO JIKENBO

1

CHAPTER 4

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SERIES

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SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Shouja Sense

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MANGA: SATOU FUMIYA

The Man-Eating Research Institute Case

金田一少年の事件簿

A fellow student from junior high, Midorikawa Mayu, has invited us for a visit to Hitokui Village.

It's connected to the outside only by a single suspension bridge, and is known as the "Nostalgia Village" for its Showa-era atmosphere.

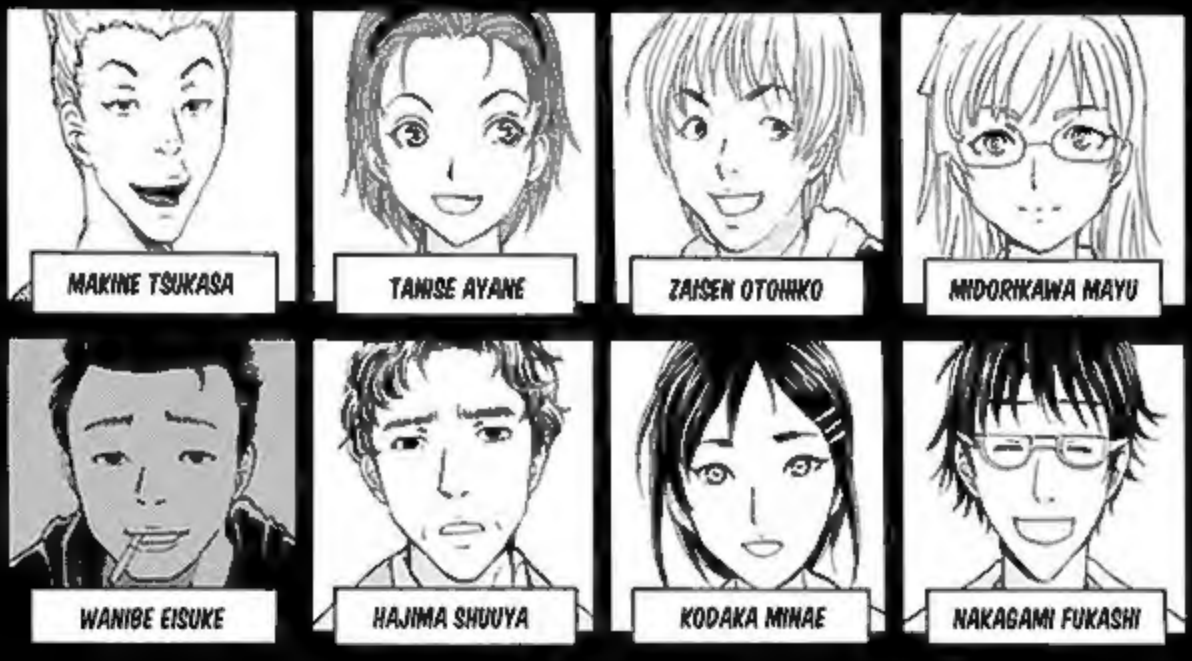
There's a research facility here that cultivates "Bounty Moss", which produces the dream energy of the future. This "Hitokui Research Institute", where I and Miyuki are staying,

was just met with a terrible incident, and we've been caught up in it.

A researcher here by the name of Wanibe Eisuke was heard making a lot of noise,

and died falling out of a door to the hallway of the third floor.

Was his death just a suicide? Or something more...?



WANIBE KILLED HIMSELF...?
人喰い研究所
殺人事件
第4話

NO, CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN...
コポコポ

THAT WANIBE DID!?
THEY SAID THAT HE SUDDENLY SHOUTED SOMETHING BEFORE JUMPING FROM THREE STORIES HIGH.

IT CAN'T BE...
HAS THAT THING FROM TWO YEARS AGO BEEN FOUND ALREADY?
THERE'S NO WAY A GUY LIKE THAT COULD COMMIT SUICIDE, RIGHT?
THEN... WAS HE MURDERED ...?
IT WAS HIM WHO SAID THAT IT'S OUR CHANCE TO GET "THAT".
HE SAID IF WE COULD BRING "THAT" TO THE COMPANY, WE'D BE RICH...
I'LL JUST TAKE A NAP IN THE BATH.
UGH... I'M BUSHED ...
I'M THINKING TOO MUCH INTO IT!
NO WAY!
AS LONG AS I GET "THAT", I CAN FINALLY SAY GOODBYE TO THIS TROUBLESOME VILLAGE!
I JUST HAVE TO GET "THAT" ...

Shoujo Sense

WAS ACTUALLY ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE TWO YEARS AGO.
HMM, THAT SAID, WANIBE-SAN ...
I EVEN TOLD THEM ABOUT THE PLIERS NEXT TO HIM THAT BROKE THE LOCK...
STILL, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY WOULD KILL HIMSELF.
NAKAGAMI-SAN... WHAT DID THE POLICE SAY ABOUT WANIBE-SAN'S DEATH?
IT WAS A SUICIDE, JUST AS I THOUGHT.
EVEN WANIBE-SAN PLANNED HIS SUICIDE!?
WHAT...!?
HMM, YEAH, ABOUT THAT...
AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE FIVE PEOPLE, INCLUDING DR. MIDORIGAWA, WHO PLANNED THEIR OWN SUICIDES, BUT ...
NAKAGAMI-SAN, THE "MAN-EATING" INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO...
WHAT KIND OF INCIDENT WAS IT?
HAJIME-CHAN!

WHO WAS THE FIRST ONE WHO TRIED?
IT WAS THAT YOUNG AND TALENTED RESEARCHER,
ACTUALLY, ONLY TWO PEOPLE ACTUALLY DIED.
THE OTHER THREE WERE SAVED.
THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THAT MANAGER, HAJIMA-SAN.
HAJIMA-SAN'S...!?
HE TRIED TAKING HIS LIFE BY OVER-DOSING HIMSELF WITH SLEEPING PILLS AND LEFT SOME PROPANE GAS TANKS OPEN.
BUT TANISE-SAN, WHO WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM, NOTICED THE SMELL AND CALLED FOR HELP. IT TOOK FOUR MEN TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR AND SAVE HIM.
THE SECOND ONE WAS WANIBE-SAN.
HE HAD A SEVERE CASE OF DEPRESSION, BUT AT THE TIME, WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
HE KILLED HIMSELF BY JUMPING FROM THE THIRD FLOOR'S HALLWAY.

THE THIRD ONE WAS TANISE-SAN.
...
OH, MAN. WHEN IT HAPPENED, SHE NATURALLY GAVE ME A CALL FIRST...
NAKAGAMI-KUN? I... IT'S OVER FOR ME...
TANISE-SAN!? WHAT'S WRONG!?
I WANT TO DIE... NO MORE... GOODBYE...
TANISE-SAN!
DAMN IT!
TANISE-SAN!!
MAKINE-SAN AND I SOMEHOW SAVED HER FROM OVERDOSING ON SO MANY PILLS.
YET WHEN WE ASKED HER ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS, SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHY...

We found him on the ground in his room after he cut his own wrist.
Thankfully, his close friend, Wanibe-san, found him and stopped the bleeding.
THE FOURTH ONE WAS THE ONE WHO CAME RUNNING THAT TIME, MAKINE-SAN HIMSELF.
WHAT!? EVEN THAT GUY TRIED!?
W-WHY EVEN HIM...?
HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO TRY ANYTHING LIKE SUICIDE.
...
HOW DO I SAY IT... HE SEEMED LIKE HE DIDN'T MEAN TO.
MAKINE-SAN AT THAT TIME...
YEAH, I THOUGHT SO TOO.
HIS BODY WAS BURNT COMPLETELY TO BLACK, TO THE POINT OF BEING UNRECOGNIZABLE ...
IT WAS TERRIBLE.
YES...
DR. MIDORIGAWA, WHO BURNED HIMSELF TO DEATH...
AND THEN THE LAST ONE WAS MAYU'S FATHER...

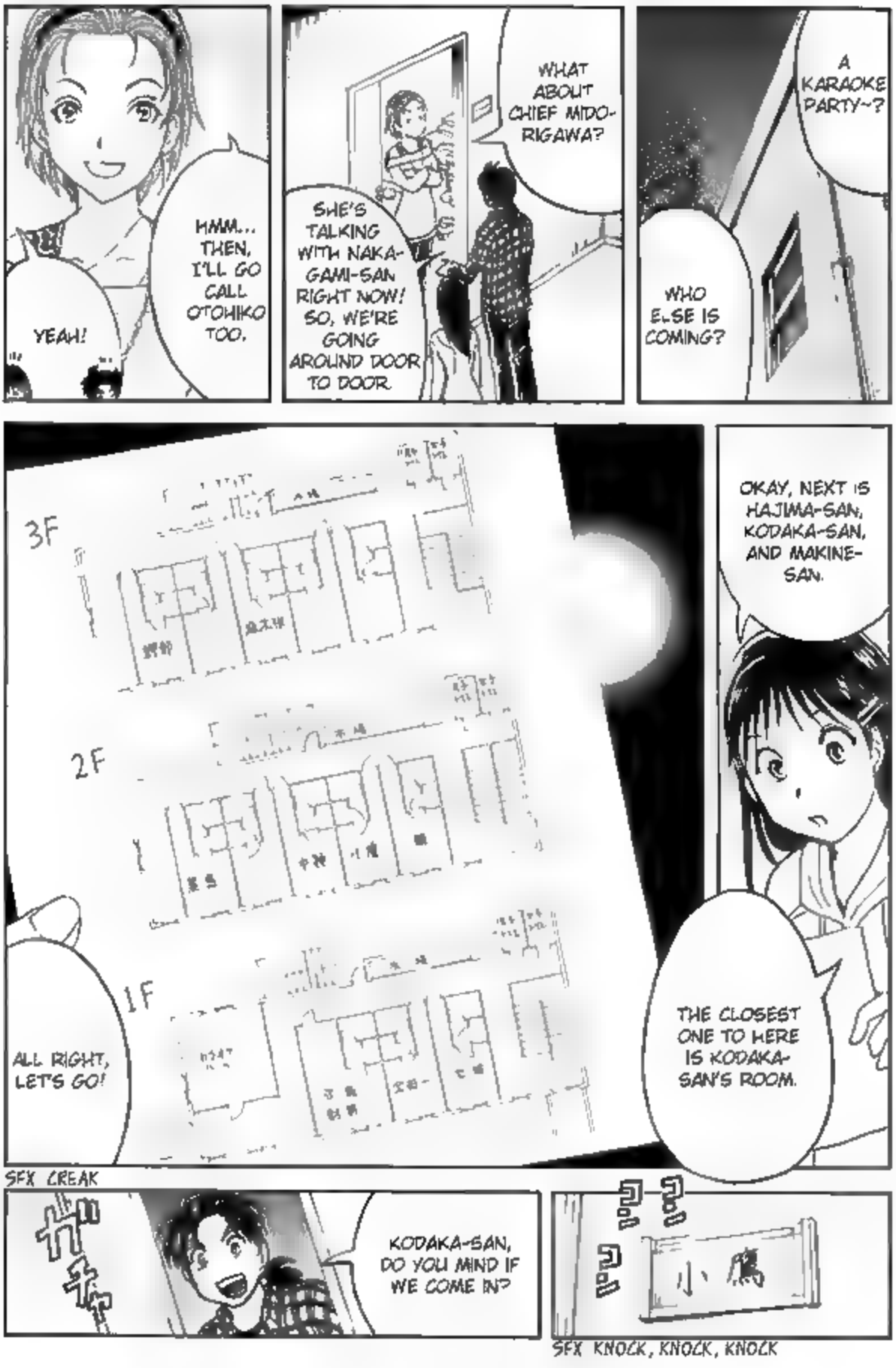
WHAT IF?
BUT, WHAT IF...
WHY WOULD THE SUICIDES KEEP HAPPENING LIKE THAT?
THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A GOOD REASON TO...
I HAVE NO IDEA ...
SFX: SILENCE
THE REASON THE BOUNTY MOSS COULD PRODUCE OIL, THE "MIDORIGAWA FACTOR" ITSELF...
IF THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT MIGHT SPUR ON THESE SUICIDES ...
...NO WAY! THEN, ALL THE BAD FEELINGS BEFORE BED AND THE NIGHTMARES ...
EVERYTHING WAS BECAUSE OF THAT "MIDORIGAWA FACTOR" ...?

SFX: MUSIC
LET'S GET SINGING!
IT'S TAKEN A TURN FOR THE DARK, HUH?
LET'S ENJOY ANOTHER KARAOKE NIGHT!
HUH? BUT PEOPLE JUST DIED! IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT ...
BEEP, BEEP, BEEP
I-IS THAT RIGHT... THEN, WE SHOULD GET INTO THE MOOD OF THE SONG.
BEEP, BEEP, BEEP
THIS TIME, I'LL USE MY POWERS OF SONG TO DEFEAT THESE DARK FORCES!!
WAIT... HAJIME-CHAN, THAT SONG AGAIN!?
SFX: RING
SFX: CLICK
SHE SHOULD STILL BE AT THE LABORA-TORIES, RIGHT?
I'LL CALL OVER THE CHIEF, AH NO, MAYU-CHAN!
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELP-ING IT.
...
OH, COME ON-! HAJIME-CHAN...
...SHE SAYS AS SHE CRUSHES THE TAM-BORINE IN HER HAND

UM, IT'S JUST AS WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE. KINDAICHI-KUN STARTED UP THE KARAOKE AGAIN.
MAYU-CHAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A LITTLE CHEERING UP?
NAKAGAMI-SAN, WHAT IS IT?
...YES?
AH! WAIT, HAJIME-CHAN, THE VOLUME!
IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
LOOK, NAKAGAMI-SAN.
I CAN'T MISS WATCHING OVER THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE BOUNTY MOSS AT THE MOMENT.
BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALL HERE
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! WE SHOULD CALL OVER EVERYONE FOR A HUGE KARAOKE PARTY!
KINDAICHI-KUN, NANASE-SAN! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT SHOULDN'T WE CALL OVER EVERYONE ELSE?
LET'S CELEBRATE WITH A HUGE KARAOKE PARTY!
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO SHOW THAT LADY WHO CALLED MY SONG "WEIRD"! I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!
Hajime-chan sure seemed bothered by it...

IF YOU NEED TO DRAG MAYU-CHAN OUT, I'LL HELP TOO!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
NO! WE'RE GOING NOW!
AH, BUT BEFORE THAT, ONE MORE SONG!
THIS MORNING, THE CO_2 LEVELS IN TANK NO. 3 DROPPED TO HALF
EXPE-RIMENT .. WITH WHAT?
ACTUAL-LY, I'D LIKE TO EXPERI-MENT WITH SOME-THING.
AH, PLEASE WAIT! YOU'RE BY THE AQUARIUM TANKS NOW, RIGHT?
NAKAGAMI-SAN, I'M GRATEFUL, BUT..
SO, IF THE MOSS CAN GET STRON-GER FROM FACING THAT SORT OF STRESS
IF WE LEAVE IT LIKE THAT, THE MOSS WON'T PRO-DUCE OIL
THAT WAS WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR.
WHAT!? THE MOSS WILL BE TOO WEAK TO PRODUCE ANY OIL THAT WAY!
BUT...
...I SEE. IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.

ALL SFX: STREAMING
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.
...THIS GUY WILL DIE BY MY HANDS
WHY DEAD PEOPLE SHOULD STAY DEAD ...
THERE'S A REASON


HMM... THEN, I'LL GO CALL OTOHIKO TOO.
YEAH!
WHAT ABOUT CHIEF MIDORIGAWA?
SHE'S TALKING WITH NAKAGAMI-SAN RIGHT NOW! SO, WE'RE GOING AROUND DOOR TO DOOR.
A KARAOKE PARTY~?
WHO ELSE IS COMING?
OKAY, NEXT IS HAJIMA-SAN, KODAKA-SAN, AND MAKINE-SAN.
THE CLOSEST ONE TO HERE IS KODAKA-SAN'S ROOM.
3F
2F
1F
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
SFX CREAK
KODAKA-SAN, DO YOU MIND IF WE COME IN?
SFX KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK

EVERYONE'S GATHERING UP FOR A KARAOKE PARTY TO KILL THE BAD MOOD... HOW ABOUT YOU?
OH, SURE!
CLICK
WHAT IS IT, KINDAICHI-KUN AND NANASE-SAN?
EVEN IF I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT,
KARAOKE IS MY FORTE!
OH, REALLY? OKAY. THANKS, KODAKA-SAN!
I'LL GO CALL ON HAJIMA-SAN, SO YOU TWO CALL MAKINE-SAN!
ALL RIGHT, IT'S SETTLED! THEN, UP NEXT IS HAJIMA-SAN.
HUH? THE DOOR IS HALF-OPEN?
OVER THERE.
UM, MAKINE-SAN'S ROOM WAS. .

DID THE BATHTUB BREAK?
THAT'S..
THERE'S WATER LEAKING OUT FROM THE DOOR!
OH, NO!
WHAT'S GOING ON, MAKINE-SAN!
HAJIME-CHAN! TH-THIS COULDN'T BE!?
BLOOD!?
MA...
DAMN!

MAKINE-SAN!?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
W-WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING ...
UGH
! HE'S STILL BREATHING!

MOVE!
I'LL STOP THE BLEEDING!
YOU TWO GO LET NAKAGAMI AND THE OTHERS KNOW!
HURRY!
Y-YES, SIR
HAJIMA-SAN!
MAKINE! YOU!!
SFX: TAP, TAP
URK!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT! IT'S MAKINE-SAN!
AH, KIN-DAICHI-KUN AND NANASE-SAN, JUST A LITTLE LONGER..
NAKA-GAMI-SAN!

MAKINE-SAN HAS CUT HIS WRIST! PLEASE CALL THE INFIRMARY!
I-I'VE GOT IT!
AH! I'M SORRY, CHIEF, BUT SOME-THING HAP-PENED TO MAKINE-SAN...
TELL HER LATER!
SFX: CLACK
WHAT'S WRONG, NAKAGAMI-SAN!? JUST NOW
HUH? MAKINE-SAN!?
WHATEVER! PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE THE INFIRMARY IS!
THE DOCTOR ALREADY LEFT. HIS HOME PHONE WAS, UM ...
HUH? THERE'S NO ANS-WER!
MMM. THE INFIRMARY WAS
SFX: TAP, TAP
R-RIGHT, BUT THE NUMBER ...
MIYUKI!! YOU MAKE THE CALL!
AH! THE DOCTOR'S HOME LINE IS JUST BELOW THE INFIRMARY'S IN THE DI-RECTORY.

WE NEED TO GET MAKINE-SAN TO THE IN-FIRMARY!
HEY!
MOVE OUTTA THE WAY!
IT'S TOO LATE...
MAKINE IS... DEAD.

Is it really a suicide...?

THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HE CUT HIMSELF IN THE BATH.
YET STRANGELY, THE WALLS ARE COMPLETELY SPOTLESS.
HIS ARTERY IS CUT WIDE OPEN, AND A LOT OF BLOOD SPILLED OUT.
...
THAT HE'D ONLY TOSS THE RAZOR OUT?
THEN, WOULDN'T IT BE UNNATURAL...
BUT, THE RAZOR FELL TO THE FLOOR, WHEN I RUSHED IN EARLIER.
WHEN I SHOWED UP, HE WAS STILL ALIVE... AT MOST AROUND FIVE MINUTES EARLIER.
IF HE REALLY MEANT TO CUT HIS WRIST, HE WOULDN'T WAIT UNTIL WE'D FIND HIM LIKE THIS.
AND ONE MORE THING...
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT FOR CERTAIN.
THE WATER MUST HAVE BEEN POURING OUT FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES.
WHEN MIYUKI AND I SHOWED UP, IT WAS SEEPING OUT INTO THE HALLWAY.
BUT JUST LOOK AT THIS SOAKED ROOM!
...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE?
THE WATER POURED OUT FOR 30 MINUTES, AND ONLY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO, HE CUT HIMSELF...

THIS ISN'T A SUICIDE.
TSUKASA MAKINE WAS MURDERED,
AND IT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE HE KILLED HIMSELF!